

Let us now consider the significance of the plagues that came on the land of Egypt.

In *Exodus* 7 through 12, we have the work of redemption through which God was about to loose His people from bondage and bring them into a deep spiritual reunion with Himself. From *chapter* 7, Moses is no longer hesitant and weak and discouraged. God tells Moses that He would make him a god unto Pharaoh and make Aaron his spokesman, meaning He was going to establish the ministry of Moses in the land of Egypt and give him such power that he would be able to command Pharaoh what to do; he would control Pharaoh when he did wrong and punish him for disobedience. Pharaoh would have to apply to Moses for the removal of the plagues. So Moses then went forth with that assurance and confronted Pharaoh. He went with the message from God: "Let My people go that they may serve Me." But Pharaoh scorned the words of Moses.

Moses showed him the sign of the rod becoming a serpent, to show Pharaoh that his rule was under the control of Satan. God did not give Moses three signs to show just unto Pharaoh, but He gave Moses the rod to be used against Pharaoh. Only one of the three signs was used by Moses when

he confronted Pharaoh; why did he not use the sign of the leprous hand? Pharaoh's magicians performed the same miracle with the rod as Moses did. Satan has power too, but God's power is always greater than the devil's. The serpent of Moses swallowed up the serpents of the magicians. In other words, in this encounter God was showing Pharaoh that his "rod" was weaker than Moses'!

We saw that the rod was a picture of Jesus Christ. He was the "rod of Jesse" (*Isa. 11:1*). *Isaiah 11:4* states, "**He shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth.**" The rod is connected with the Living Word, Jesus Christ. Just as Moses was confronted with opposition, so was Jesus when He was on earth. He said, "**Oh, generation of vipers**" (*Matt. 23:33*). John the Baptist also referred to these religious people as such (*Matt. 3:7*). This meant that they were still in bondage to Satan. They were religious, but they were not in harmony with God. They were more concerned with the letter of the Law than the spirit of the Law. Just as the serpent of Moses swallowed up the serpents of Pharaoh, Jesus, when He confronted the Pharisees, Scribes, and Sadducees, saw through their hypocrisy and left them speechless. The words of Jesus Christ swallowed up the words of the religious hypocrites.

Why did God not allow Pharaoh to see the second sign, the leprous hand? Because the people of this world who will not appreciate the rod of Jesus Christ and His authority will not be in a position to appreciate this second sign. This second sign is connected with the cleansing from sin. Leprosy is connected with sin in the Bible. To have your hand healed of leprosy means to be clean in your works, and to have your bosom healed of leprosy means to have a heart cleansed from the working of sin. Only those who have acknowledged the authority of the rod, those who come under submission to Jesus Christ and acknowledge Him as their King, will have the secret of the removal of their sins revealed to them. Those

who will not, will remain bound by sin. So God did not see fit to let Moses perform the second sign to Pharaoh, but He did let him perform that sign before the Israelites.

God was going to show Pharaoh that He was greater than the gods of Egypt through ten plagues.

A list of the plagues and their references are as follows:

1. *Exodus 7:14-25* – The turning of water into blood
2. *Exodus 8:1-5* – The frogs covering the land of Egypt
3. *Exodus 8:16-19* – The lice attacking the persons of Egypt
4. *Exodus 8:21-32* – Swarms of flies infesting the homes of the Egyptians and covering the land of Egypt
5. *Exodus 9:1-7* – Grievous disease smiting the cattle, Murrain
6. *Exodus 9:8-12* – Boils and sores coming on man and cattle
7. *Exodus 9:18-35* – Thunder and hail
8. *Exodus 10:1-20* – Locusts consuming the green vegetation
9. *Exodus 10:21-29* – Darkness covering the land of Egypt for three days
10. *Exodus 11 & 12* – Slaying of the firstborn in the land of Egypt

Why did God send these plagues on the land of Egypt? Do you think God acts haphazardly in this universe? This universe is sustained by the laws of God. He works all things according to the council of His own good Will. He must step in when certain laws are violated, else chaos would come on planet earth.

Let us look into the reason or purpose of the plagues. These plagues were to manifest the mighty power of God. The people of Egypt were to see the power of God manifested on a great scale. Even the magicians, when they began to see a greater power of Moses, said, ***"This is the finger of God"*** (Ex. 8:19). Isaiah states, ***"When thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness"*** (Isa. 26:9). God was now visiting upon the Egyptians and Pharaoh punishment for the treatment of the Hebrews. Pharaoh had to acknowledge this. In ***Exodus 10:16***, Pharaoh said, ***"I have sinned against the Lord your God."*** What you sow is what you reap (Gal. 6:7). God settled the score by bringing judgment on Pharaoh and the Egyptians and their gods.

"For the Egyptians buried all their firstborn, which the Lord had smitten among them: upon their gods also the Lord executed judgments."

Numbers 33:4

They were worshipping demons and not the True and Living God. God was going to deal with the idolatry in that land. The purpose of the plagues is seen in that there were ten of them; ten is the number of human responsibility. We see this manifested in the Ten Commandments which speak of man's responsibility to God and to man. That is why they were written on two tablets. One tablet speaks of man's duty to God and the other of man's duty to man. Then in the New Testament we read of the ten talents (***Matt. 25:14-29***), the ten pounds (***Lk. 19:12-27***), and the woman's ten pieces of silver (***Lk. 15:8-9***). So we see how the responsibility of man is taken into account in these ten plagues. The basic numbers are one through nine. Ten is a complete cycle, but ten can also begin a new cycle. The Bible speaks of those who rebelled against God ten times in the wilderness and their bones perished in the wilderness (***Num. 14:22-23***). A complete cycle

of judgment came on the land of Egypt with these ten plagues. Those who were willing to repent and seek God would receive mercy, but those who hardened their hearts would come into that judgment. These judgments were to be a warning to other nations that God would curse those who cursed Israel – the promise God had given to Abraham and his seed. Rahab, the harlot, testified in *Joshua 2:8-9*,

“We heard of all that God did for you in the land of Egypt, and the report of it caused our hearts to be afraid.”

The Philistines also heard of the report as recorded in *I Samuel 4:8*. And God wanted them to know that if they came against His people, they were coming against Him. Saul of Tarsus persecuted the Christians yet he thought he was doing God a favor. But God blinded him and spoke to him on the Damascus road: *“Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?”* (*Acts 9:4, 26:14*). So when you go against the body, you go against the Head. The fear of God was to be brought to the other nations through these judgments.

These plagues were also to be testings for the nation of Israel. In *Deuteronomy 4:33-34*, we read:

“Did ever people hear the voice of God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as thou hast heard, and live? Or hath God assayed to go and take Him a nation from the midst of another nation, by temptations, by signs, and by wonders, and by war, and by a mighty hand, and by a stretched out arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the Lord your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?”

The Israelites' faith was to be tested, but God let them see His hand of grace in the midst of the judgment. We will see how God made provision for them when the plagues came on the land.

Notice the orderly arrangement of the plagues because of its relation to Israel and their redemption. We can separate the first nine from the tenth because these nine plagues can be divided into three groups of threes. You will see a beautiful order in these divisions of threes. For example, as you thoroughly read the entire chapters of *Exodus 7-12* in which those plagues are given, make a thorough study of the details and then begin to analyze the plagues. You will find the relationship, or the order, in the three sections of threes.

In the third plague, no warning is given. In the first two plagues, Moses and Aaron came before Pharaoh and gave him a warning and then they left when the judgment came. But no warning is given in the third plague. Why? Because God gives man an opportunity to turn from his rebellious ways; when he refuses, then God steps in with judgment. Pharaoh is not aware of plague number three. We see the same thing in plague number six, when the ashes of the furnace become boils upon man and beast. No advance notice is given to Pharaoh then. The same thing happens in plague number nine, when the land was covered with darkness. In none of these three plagues is there an announcement to Pharaoh. This shows that God will not always strive with man (*Gen. 6:3*). That in itself speaks of the order of God. Two is the number of witness. So after two witnesses, the third plague is given unannounced. God is a God of numbers – a mathematical God. We don't have to be a very deep student of mathematics to appreciate the numbers of God. The Bible is a book of numbers; we even have one book named *Numbers*. And we need to understand God's mathematics, for God speaks to us through math. Jesus used mathematics in His parables. The Tabernacle and the Temple of Solomon are described with numbers, and also the Millennial Temple that Ezekiel wrote about. If we only understand some of the elementary symbols of numbers, then we can see more into the plans and purposes of God.

In the first three plagues, *Aaron* uses the rod. In the second set of threes, Aaron only uses the rod in plague four, but in plagues five and six the rod is not mentioned. In the last three plagues, seven, eight, and nine, *Moses* uses the rod. In the ninth plague, it doesn't give the word "rod," but states that his hand is stretched out (*Ex. 10:21-22*), it is inferring that the rod was used. There is a relationship in this.

1. Waters become blood

2. Frogs come on the land, and frogs are creatures which croak in the darkness of the night

3. The magicians confessed, "*This is the finger of God*";

4. God exempted the land of Goshen from the remaining plagues

5. The cattle of the Egyptians were attacked

6. The cattle of the Egyptians were attacked

7. No hail came on the land of Goshen.

8. Pharaoh confessed, "*I have sinned against... God.*"

9. There is actual darkness

10. There is actual shedding of blood

Then there is a progression of the plagues from one realm of severity into another realm of severity. There is gradual ascending severity from the first to the tenth. The first three plagues interfere with the comfort of the Egyptian people. In the ~~first~~ ^{second} plague, the frogs invaded their homes, their beds, their ovens, and kneading troughs. In the third plague, lice infested their bodies. These three plagues are bad, but the next three get more severe.

The second set of plagues deals with the possessions of

the Egyptians. The flies corrupted the land. The cattle were destroyed. Their bodies were afflicted with boils.

In the third section, we come to the greatest type of judgment. The highest of them all will be the tenth. In the seventh, eighth, and ninth, we will see desolation, darkness, and death. The last four dovetail one into the other. Death is plague ten, but desolation and darkness are seen in the last set of three. Desolation came in the form of hail, which destroyed the green vegetation and killed the cattle; locusts destroyed the remaining green vegetation and darkness paralyzed the activities of the land of Egypt. See how God was moving in Divine order? In nature, it is first the blade, the ear, then the full corn in the ear (*Mk. 4:28*). The same principle applies in the grace of God and in the judgment of God. There is the blade stage, the ear stage, then the full-corn-in-the-ear stage.

There is a significance in the plagues. When you read the Bible, don't be satisfied with the surface meaning; go deeper for the spiritual meaning. There is a meaning to everything, and this is how you must approach the Word of God. Accept what is on the surface, but ask God to show you the deeper meanings in the Word. The Old Testament is truly historical, but the truths of God are hidden in the history. When you read of the nation of Israel in the Old Testament, see that God has a message there for the Church, and for the individual also. The promises of God are not only for the nation of Israel; they are for us, too. Though the plagues spoke to the nation of Israel back then, we shall also see their fulfillment in this end time.

God is showing us how Egypt is to be judged. Egypt is a type of this world system under the rulership of Pharaoh-Satan. The judgments in Egypt are a picture of the judgments coming on the world. What happened then is about to see fulfillment now, not just in one locality, but on the entire surface of the earth. Remember how America has come of age,

and how the world is coming of age, and how God will step in to bring judgment. There is a time for God to intervene.

Water turning into blood speaks of death. When you lose blood, there is a great loss. Death is working in this world.

The frogs in the second plague speak to us of the pride and haughtiness of man.

The lice is a picture of the uncleanness of the flesh.

The flies speak of the fact that the wicked people of this world belong to Satan. One of Satan's titles is *Beelzebub*, "the Lord of Flies"! Flies feed on dung heaps. This is a picture of how Satan will come against men and cause them to do filthy things opposed to God.

The murrain came on the cattle that served man. The cattle speak of man's service which is unacceptable to God, because men are bound by Satan and such service cannot please God.

The boils that came on man and beast speak of the infection of man because of the working of sin:

"From the sole of the foot even unto the head thereof, is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment."

Isaiah 1:6

These boils speak of the breaking forth of sin in the heart of man. How graphic a description of man in bondage!

The next plague is the hail that brought the lightning. The hail and the lightning speak of the wrath of God upon the disobedient. The wrath of God abides on those who neglect His ways. The locusts devouring the greenery speak of the barrenness of this world, because this world cannot satisfy man.

Then dense darkness covered the land of Egypt as the ninth plague arrived. Man estranged from God is in darkness. Those who are born-again believers are children of the light. Eventually we read of the last or tenth plague, which is death, death upon the firstborn. There is death of the body and there is what the Bible calls the second death. So we see in these judgments how God showed us that the world is infected with sin. Sin leads to death, and separation from God.

These are just partial answers to the significance of the plagues. Later we will apply what we have just learned to our modern society.

The plagues were designed to establish to the Israelites that their God was superior to the gods of Egypt. Let us notice the conduct of the magicians. The magicians were able to match their power against Moses and Aaron up to the third plague, but on the fourth occasion, their power was curtailed. There is a meaning to this. They turned their rods into serpents; they turned the water into blood and caused frogs to come into the land. When plague three came, they could not bring forth lice. How is it that they could do these three things but couldn't bring forth lice? Why were they limited?

Satan sought to destroy ~~on~~ the Israelites by killing the male children and giving them hard labor. When Satan failed in this, he wanted the magicians to counterfeit the workings of God. So when miracles were manifested, Satan sought to come against the miracle-working power of God. *But the enemy can go only so far and no further.* He cannot match his power with God's. He is limited. When Satan can't attack people as **"a roaring lion"** (*I Pet. 5:8*), or intimidate them, then he comes like an angel of light (*II Cor. 11:14*). When he appears that way, very few of us can recognize his masquerade and his disguise.

The plagues are a prophetic preview of the judgments that

are to come on the world in our day. That is the most important thing we must see. What we saw in Egypt was judgment, in capsule or miniature form. What we saw then, we will see repeated on a broader scale in this day and age in which we live. We can also see how these plagues have a fulfillment in the *Book of Revelation*. God wants to open this Book up to us today, and He is giving us more understanding in this end time. But He will open it up to us when we are ready. The more truth God gives you, the more accountable you are to God. That is a very solemn fact to keep in mind. Unto whom much is given, much is required (*Lk. 12:48*). So let us not seek knowledge for the sake of knowledge, but let us walk in the light of that truth.

Just as God had two witnesses to deliver Israel from Egypt, He will also have two witnesses in this end time, which we read about in the *Book of Revelation 11:3-6*. Just as God protected His own when the judgments came on Egypt, He will provide protection for His people during the Tribulation (*Rev. 7*). The angels are told to hurt not the sea or the earth or the trees, until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads (*Rev. 7:2-3*), sealed to be protected during a time of great suffering.

Then, we read of the water turning into blood (*Ex. 7:19-20*). And in *Revelation 8:8* and *16:4-5*, we also see the water becoming blood. When we read of frogs in Egypt, we are given to understand in *Revelation 15:13* that the frogs come forth to deceive the nations. Regarding the locusts plague, *Revelation 9:2-11* reveals that these locusts arrive from the Pit. And as we read of boils coming forth on men and cattle in *Exodus*, we read of boils coming forth on men in *Revelation 16:2*. Again, we read of hail coming down from heaven in *Exodus*, and we see the same thing in *Revelation 8:7*. And just as there was darkness in the land of Egypt, there is going to be great darkness coming on the earth, like we read of in

Revelation 16:10. And as the wicked Pharaoh hardened his heart, we read of some people in **Revelation 9:20-21** that will not repent of their sorceries and wicked ways in spite of these judgments which will come.

Just as death was evidenced in the slaying of the firstborn, death also comes in **Revelation 9:15**. And just as Israel was delivered in the fullness of time, God is going to deliver the nation of Israel and His Church. In **Revelation 7:9-10**, we are told of a people from all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people. John saw them with white robes and palm branches in their hands. In **verse 14**, the Elder tells John,

“These are they who came out of great tribulation and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb!”

So, just as Israel came out of bondage from Egypt, and sang a song of victory when they reached the other side of the Red Sea (**Ex. 15:1,20-21**), this nation of all kindreds, nations, tongues, and people will receive the victory over the Beast, the mark of the Beast, the number of the Beast, and they will stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God as they sing the *song of Moses* and of the Lamb! We see then that what happened in Egypt has also found fulfillment in this end time.

We must treasure this word of God! With all our translations and aids, some of us are so busy we do not have time for God. God’s business is the greatest business and it’s high time we seek for it.

“But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

– Jesus, Matthew 6:33

As we have already learned, the first plague was water becoming blood. That speaks of death. And, significantly,

the first miracle Jesus performed in His ministry on earth was turning water into wine (*Jn. 2:1-11*). Here is a beautiful picture. Under the Law there was death, for the Law exposed man. The Law is good, but man's flesh is weak. What the Law could not do, God sent His Son in the form of flesh to accomplish (*Rom. 8:3-4*); He came to fulfill the Law (*Matt. 5:17*). So through Jesus Christ, there is no death; there is Life, there is the wine of rejoicing.

In plague two we are shown the frogs coming on the land, typifying uncleanness and pride. The magicians brought forth more frogs, for they can bring forth more evil.

In plague three, the lice came without warning. The lice come from the smiting of the dust of the land. Man was made out of the dust of the earth (*Gen. 2:7*). This shows us that the ground is under the curse (*Gen. 3:17*). The magicians could not bring forth lice, which shows us that Satan cannot do anything with reference to the curse. The curse has to run its course, for only God can remove it. Satan cannot. Satan cannot do away with the laws of God, for they are sure. He is limited. The *Book of Genesis* begins with the curse, but the *Book of Revelation* says there shall be no more curse (*Rev. 22:3*). Therein we see a beautiful contrast between *Genesis* and *Revelation*. There is death in *Genesis*, but in *Revelation* – “no more death” (*21:4*).

Israel in Egypt suffered with the Egyptians part of the way, but in plague four, God decided to intervene between the Egyptians and the Israelites. He said He would put a difference between His people and the Egyptians prior to the inflicting of the fourth plague (*Ex. 11:21-23*). As already stated, the magicians could work miracles to a point, but they could not go further. The Israelites suffered the first three plagues, but then God made a distinction. That is very important. Why did God allow His people to suffer the first three and not the remaining plagues? Because of sin, all men suffer; ALL of

us are under the rule of Satan. All of us are inflicted with uncleanness. All of us are miserable just as depicted by the condition from the lice. But when we come under the redemption of God, the curse is taken away and we can come to the blessings of God. Jesus Christ became a curse for us. "Cursed is He that hangeth on a tree" (*Gal. 3:13*). We, however, are under the curse until we come under His protection. God was showing us that in one sense, we are all Egyptians under the rule of Satan; but coming under the blood of Jesus Christ makes the difference. God made us new creatures, so though we look like "Egyptians" (Moses was mistaken for an Egyptian in Midian) we are really "Israelites" and a new creation in Christ Jesus (*II Cor. 5:17*).

Remember the Egyptians did not like the Israelites because they were Shepherds. From the shepherds you get the lamb of the flock. The people of the world don't want to hear about the Lamb "*Which taketh away the sin of the world*" (*Jn. 1:29*). They want some other way to get to God except through Jesus Christ; they think that way is too narrow. All those who reject the Lamb of God and deny the Blood Atonement of Jesus Christ are "Egyptians," but those who come under the Blood belong to the Great Shepherd. They can say, "*The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want*" (*Ps. 23:1*).

The lice in plague three, then, came from the dust smitten by the rod of God. God intervened after this plague and spared the Israelites as they came under His Banner. In plague four, diverse flies preyed on their flesh. These flies tormented the people. This speaks of the working of fear. The Bible says "*fear hath torment*" (*I Jn. 4:18*). When man will not come to God, he has to bear the torment that Satan gives.

Plague five shows the cattle being affected. Cattle serve man, even as we read of the camel and the ox. These were beasts of burden and served man. So here we see judgment on the works of man. God showed grace to His people; the

cattle of Israel were spared, but the Egyptians' cattle died. Man's righteous works are like filthy rags in the sight of God (*Isa. 64:6*). God did not kill the cattle of the Israelites, because in Jesus Christ we are new creations and those who build on this foundation – gold, silver, and precious stones, will see their works stand (*I Cor. 3:12-13*).

Judgment on man's religion is shown in plague six. Man's religion cannot help him; only Jesus Christ can help him. We see the furnace and the ashes were to be taken and sprinkled in the air (*Ex. 9:8-10*). It was on the furnace that human sacrifices were offered in Egypt. The judgment came on man's religious work. The sinner cannot die for the sinner; it takes the "Sinless One" to die for the sinners.

In the second series of plagues, we see the flies and the boils and the murrain. What does that speak of? It tells of the filthiness in man, the impurities within man, rebellion and depravity.

Plague seven begins the third series of three and we see the rod coming again into action; we see heaven being the source of these plagues as God sends the locusts, the hail, and the darkness.

In the third series, God intervened and sent hail, locusts, and darkness on the land, which brought devastation, desolation, and death. These plagues are a picture of the judgment of God upon the ways of man.

To summarize, water becoming blood is a picture of man's emotions being stirred up. *Genesis 49:4* states that Jacob said to Reuben, "*Thou art unstable as water.*" God was telling us that He is bringing judgment in this end time; that it is because man's soul, his watery nature, is not responding to the rod of God. It was the rod that was lifted up above the water. Because man will not heed the word of God, God will give man up to his sense knowledge, and allow man to be

deluded. The Word of God says, "Those that receive not the love of the truth, God will send them strong delusion that they should believe a lie" (*II Thess. 2:10-11*). It was the rod that caused the water to become blood. This means that in this end time when people peruse the Word of God, He will give them up to the water of their own emotions; and this will cause them to be unstable as water and will lead to civil up-risings, revolutions, and much blood. Racial revolution will be increased, not only here, but also in other parts of the world. Man's emotions will be stirred up. Many are clamoring for their rights. Women trying to be men and men trying to be women is perversity in the sight of God. The moon does not try to rule the sun. There is an order in God's Creation, and if man will not submit to His word, God will say, "Go your own way, and your own blood will I require." Those who do not come under the shelter of the Blood of the Lamb will have to pay the price by their own blood.

Plague two told of frogs coming upon the land. Literal frogs are not coming on the land, but frogs croak in the night and are creatures of the water, and they speak of unclean spir-its. They are shown in *Revelation* as going to the kings of the earth (*16:13-14*). So frogs are a picture of the workings of Satanic spirits. Frogs live in water, and water speaks of the soul of man, so we will see Satanic spirits working on the minds and emotions of human beings. Do you know why America is sick today? Do you know why we have more problems than we can handle? What happened in Egypt is happening now. The frogs came upon the land and entered the houses. This is how people are being deceived today. They are believing all kinds of things, they are worshipping science, the work of their own hands, they are given up to the delusion of their own senses. And it was again the rod that was used. When man will not submit to the rod of the Word, then God allows the unclean spirits to come to do a work of havoc and we are seeing it in this day – "doctrines of devils,"

the Bible calls them (*1 Tim. 4:1*). America has become the seaboard of the latest cults; Oriental teachings are flooding this land, and horoscopes and astrology are commonplace. Those are the "frogs" coming on this land today.

God put everything in His word and He wants to enlighten us with it. This is the generation that God wants to unfold His word unto more than any other generation. This is the generation that will see the coming of the Lord. So we must be prepared! He is not coming for a lackadaisical church! We must stand for the truth of God in this day. If some teaching is not squared up with the Word of God, out with it! The Bible explains itself.

So, we saw the frogs coming on the land. The frogs then died and were removed from the houses of the Egyptians, after Pharaoh relented. That is a picture of how many are becoming free from the world and are walking into the truth that will set them free from the delusive doctrine of Satan so their houses will be kept clean. Your body is your "house," and you will be set free from the working of Satan. God will set a watch over you. These frogs will have no place in you and you will be a "temple" that is separated unto God, and you will receive your enlightenment and instruction from Him. He said,

"I will instruct thee and I will teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with Mine eye."

Psalms 32:8

We must realize that we do not know anything. We must become like a child every day and say, "Lord, I need your wisdom and illumination." Moses could not help Israel with Egyptian education; he had to have the rod in his hand. He had the authority of God and this is what God wants to do with His end-time church. He wants to raise up those like

Moses and Aaron to set His people free, those who will teach the living Word of God and set us free from our traditions and from our waywardness. Yes, God is raising up ministers today right in our very midst for those purposes. Jesus Christ spoke as one having authority and not as one of the Scribes and the Pharisees, and they marveled at His wisdom (*Matt. 7:28-29*). He said,

“I will give you a mouth of wisdom, which all your adversaries will not be able to gainsay or resist.”

Luke 21:15

When the hour comes, He will put His words in you. We will need that kind of strength in such a time as this.

The fifth plague dealt with the cattle. The more cattle a man had, the more wealthy he was. The cow was one of the most useful animals. The cow supplied meat and milk, and the skin was used for protection and clothing. The cattle being plagued is a picture of the fact that man's economy, his basic means of livelihood, is going to be shaken. Keep that in mind as we go on. Watch what happens to the economy of this nation and others around the world. See how God has spelled it out for us so clearly in Egypt. The economy of this world will be shaken and will be replaced by a number system – the Beast's system. The computer is on the scene today and is replacing man in many fields. We see a system that is arising with a number and a name. Government will come into control of everything. We will see a dictatorship; a one-world government is in the making. God showed us all this in sign language by telling us of the cattle murrain. Man's economic system is going to crumble. The dollars you work for will not have value in the coming days and the nations will be forced to come together under one head. How are you going to face these days? Thank God for the government, honor it; but don't put your trust in it. Only God is omnipotent, and only He can see you through.

The cattle (wealth) of the Israelites were not harmed. What is the wealth of the Christian? "Houses and lands" would be the answer of the world. When they lose that, they lose everything. What did Job do when he lost houses and lands? Did he gripe about it? Though his wife said, "Curse God and die," Job said, "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the Name of the Lord" (*Job 1:21*). What faith! It takes the grace of God to say that. If you lose your home and you lose your property, so what?! God cares for the sparrows, and He cares for you. Our Heavenly Father cares for us and He cared for Israel. Their cattle were not killed, to show that man *cannot take away the spiritual wealth of the Christian.*

"Lay not up for yourself treasures on earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, but lay up for yourself treasure in heaven where thieves do not break through or steal, and moth and rust doth not corrupt."

Matthew 6:19-20

Our treasures are faith and love. God has made the poor of this world rich in faith. He wants us to know that our spiritual wealth is faith in Jesus Christ. The knowledge of God, the wisdom of God, the love of God are treasures that the world knows nothing about. In the coming days when God is going to shake "Egypt," those who have the knowledge of God, the wisdom of God and the love of God are not going to be hurt. They will not be affected; they will rejoice because they will know that God is bringing man's current system to an end.

In plague number six, ashes were to be taken from a furnace and sprinkled in the air toward heaven, causing boils to break out upon cattle and men. God's Word is so up-to-date. Notice: ashes in a furnace — and they were sprinkled in the presence of Pharaoh, a symbol of Satan. Satan is called the "*prince of the power of the air*" (*Eph. 2:2*). God is telling us

that in this end time, man is going to pollute the air. And with what? With that which has been reduced to ashes, for when fire burns, the result is ashes. This is a picture of the atomic fire that will be let loose on the earth. Satan will cause man to unleash the fury of the atomic bomb in the air, and the atomic bomb, in contrast to other bombs, explodes in the air, and not on the earth. The “ashes” in the air speak of the fire of the atomic bomb that will pollute the air; and because of this, sores and boils will come upon men and cattle. This is a picture of the holocaust of the atomic bomb and radiation. We know what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, how the people were burned and blistered. This is only a small picture of what is yet to happen in this end time. God showed us how He is going to deal with this world. Satan is going to move a man to do this. The magicians were also hurt, for they also received the boils and sores, but they realized that the Israelites were not touched by this plague. When this holocaust happens, people are going to look for a place of shelter. The Bible says that they will flee to the rocks and mountains (*Rev. 6:15-16*). A songwriter wrote: “Where could I go, but to the Lord?”

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had to face the king who said, “If you don’t bow down, you will have to go through the fire” (*Dan. 3:14-15*). That is what is going to happen to Christians in this end time. The Beast’s system says, “Either acknowledge us or you will have to die.” So people will have to decide, if faced with death, whether or not they will be faithful to God. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not presume that God would deliver them, but said that even if not, they would still not bow down. That’s why the *Book of Revelation* tells us that many are going to die, but some will survive. The three Hebrew children went through the fiery furnace that was heated seven times hotter (a picture of the intense conditions that are coming on this world). There will be a people who will go through the fire of atomic bombs with

a defense and protection over them, even as God protected the three Hebrew children. He is going to provide protection for His people!

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Thousands will fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand, but it shall not come nigh thee. Thou shalt not be afraid of the pestilence that walketh at noon day, nor the arrow that flieth by night."

Psalms 91:1,5-7

What is this pestilence and arrow? Those are the atomic missiles that are loosed. But it states: "...it shall **not** come **nigh thee.**" *Psalm 91* will have a lot of meaning for most of us in the coming days. There is only one hiding place: Jesus Christ. Flee to Him. That is why we need to know our Lord today. The more we live, the more we see how little we know the Lord. We know nothing as we ought to know. But God says we must follow on to know Him.

A missionary went to the Philippines and told the people that they would never face tribulation and everything would work out smoothly for them. Then when the Japanese struck there, the missionary ran away to the United States. When he returned to preach in the Philippines after the war was over, they told him to leave: "Don't come to us, you lulled us to sleep and told us that Christians would not have to suffer anything." Thank God for the freedom we have had in America, but Christians have not been taught to face up to problems. We want God to deliver us from everything. If God did not allow us to go through certain things, we would never learn, never grow spiritual muscles, and never be strong in God. God did not deliver the Israelites out of their troubles all at once. No, the troubles became greater; and we shall see the same pattern being fulfilled. Israel suffered the first three plagues, and only at plague four did God begin to protect

them. We share the same economic system with the rest of the world. But there is coming the day when God is going to put a distinction between the people of this world and His people, and we will know that we are different from the world, just as the Egyptians marveled at the way God made distinction for those in the land of Goshen. God has it all spelled out for us in His Word. The Egyptians realized that only the Divine Protection around the Israelites kept them from being hurt.

Plague seven was the hail and lightning coming on the land. That speaks of a storm, since a storm is often preceded by lightning. The hail was such as never was in the land of Egypt, Jesus also said there was going to be a time on the earth such as had never been known on the face of the world.

“Behold, to morrow about this time I will cause it to rain a very grievous hail, such as hath not been in Egypt since the foundation thereof even until now.”

Exodus 9:18

“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.”

Matthew 24:21

See the correspondence here between the judgment in Egypt and this end time. Hail is also formed when bombs explode. And when many bombs are exploded, much of the earth will be taken up into the upper atmosphere, where there will be a congealing, a freezing, of some of these earth materials in the upper heights. That will become hail, and God will cause that hail to fall on man for his wickedness. Man will reap what he has sown; because man will use such bombs, God will cause them to come down on his own head. Hail will also wipe out the greenery of the land. We will see suffering coming on earth as man's agriculture is affected. Famine has already happened in some areas; in the days to come, we

will see great shortages of food. But for the Israelites, God provided protection. Where will you go when there is no food to eat? All you have to do is cry out to God and belong to Him. He blessed the widow's meal and it lasted for many days (*1 Ki. 17:10-16*). All He wants is our simple faith. We want God to take us out of this world, but we haven't even learned the basics. When a man learns the basics here on earth, he can be ready when the time comes to go out into spiritual things. Now is the time to get ready.

Plague number eight involved locusts which came with the east wind. Locusts here represent armies. *Joel* describes the locusts as an army that brings devastation (*2:25*). We also see the locusts coming out of the Pit in *Revelation 9:7*. Their coming from the east represents the nations from the East. *Revelation* says that the "way of the kings of the East" is going to be prepared for the conflict of Armageddon (*Rev. 16:12,16*). Armageddon is a picture of the Eastern nations coming against the Western nations to wipe them out. Some Eastern nations hate the prosperous West. We will see in the end time the armies of the nations in conflict as symbolized by these locusts. Do you know how the locusts were driven away? God sent a strong west wind and it drove the locusts out of the land (*Ex. 10:19*). This is a picture of how the Western nations are going to cry out unto God. The west wind speaks of the blessings of God. The blessings of God will come on the Western nations after they have been spoiled, and they will cry out to God. He will send revival, and there will be a turning away of the invasion of the "locusts." When it seems as if the devastation of the locusts is going to conquer the world, God will intervene and bring an end to it.

Plague number nine was three days of darkness. Taking a day for a year, the three days of darkness will be the last three-and-one-half years which are spoken of as "the Great Tribulation" (*Rev. 7:14*). God rounded the number in Moses' day,

yet it refers to three and a half years of intense darkness.

***“For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth,
and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall
arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon
thee.”***

Isaiah 60:2

In the homes of the Egyptians there was darkness. In the homes of the Israelites, there was light. In the darkness that is coming, God is going to cause the Light of His Word, the Light of His Holy Spirit, and the protection of His angels to surround His people. When it seems the nation of Israel is going to be wiped out, God is going to move in this end time.

When you start seeing these plagues, don't wait for it to become darker. Ask the Lord now to set your house in order: “Deal with my heart, Lord; I don't want to be rebellious. I want to be an out-and-out Christian for You.” When one of us suffer, all suffer. When one rejoices, all rejoice. One can't do it alone; we all need to come together as one people. We must be committed to the Lord. Moses and Aaron and the Israelites had to stand together; and look how God intervened. They were all together ***“with one accord in one place”*** when the fire at Pentecost came (***Acts 2:1-4***). God wants to bring about this unity in the Spirit, and give us His protection. The Israelites had light in their dwellings. The people of this world don't know what is going on. But God's simple people, who don't have all the wisdom of this world, have the wisdom that comes from above. Jesus said,

***“I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
that thou hast hid these things from the wise and
prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even
so, Father; for so it seemed good in Thy sight.”***

Luke 10:21

For God has chosen not many mighty, the proud of this

world, but has chosen the humble, the weak, the foolish, the despised and the nothings (*I Cor. 1:26-29*). We have this glorious opportunity to yield our beings entirely to the Lord. We don't have to fear the plagues of God. We don't have to fear what the enemy is going to do. Get your eyes on Jesus Christ – He has defeated Satan!

“The Lord is my Light and my Salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the Strength of my life....”

Psalm 27:1

May God hold us in His hands, and preserve us as He did Israel. As the Apostle Paul said,

“May your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless to the coming of that great day.”

1 Thessalonians 5:23

4

The "Passover Lamb"

We read in *Exodus 10:24-29*:

"And Pharaoh called unto Moses, and said, Go ye, serve the Lord; only let your flocks and your herds be stayed: let your little ones also go with you. And Moses said, Thou must give us also sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice unto the Lord our God. Our cattle shall also go with us; there shall not an hoof be left behind; for thereof must we take to serve the Lord our God; and we know not with what we must serve the Lord, until we come thither. But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go. And Pharaoh said unto him, Get thee from me, take heed to thyself, see my face no more; for in that day thou seest my face thou shalt die. And Moses said, Thou hast spoken well, I will see thy face again no more."

When Moses said, "...*not an hoof shall be left behind*," he meant that everything that he had must be given over to God. Have we come to that point yet? It is one thing to say, "All to Jesus, I surrender; all to Him I freely give," but another thing to do it. Many have sung it but not always meant it. The Lord will hold us to that vow. For us to see the full